

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**5 APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INTERSYSTEM LOCK OPTIMIZATION**

 An apparatus and method for distributed intersystem lock optimization are provided. With the apparatus and method of the present invention, the time required to
10 obtain an uncontested lock, meaning a lock that no other program or process in the distributed system is simultaneously attempting to acquire, is minimized. The apparatus and method of the present invention increases the speed with which locks are acquired by splitting the
15 process of obtaining a lock into two separate operations: a test for contention, and then if contention exists, a full lock operation. The test for contention is made fast by associating each lock with a memory location, and using an atomic operation or the like, to atomically set
20 the memory location associated with the lock to a different value. If the lock is found to be contested, meaning that another program or process has already locked it, control is turned over to a slower operation than ensures that the lock-requesting program or process
25 will eventually be granted the lock.

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